OUR WATER- GOOD FOR OUR LAWNS, GOOD FOR OUR FUTURE

Water is a precious natural resource and your Water Utilities Department is helping to plan for our city's future water supply needs.

More and more Arlington residents are doing their part to help conserve and protect our water supply. However, supply and demand continue to increase as our population grows. It is important that we take every opportunity to ensure a plentiful supply of quality water into the future.

How may times have you seen automatic water sprinklers running during rainfall or on the hottest day of the summer? These types of activities are wasting water. To encourage wise water usage, new lawns and landscape irrigation requirements became effective by city ordinance on March 4, 2005.

This new ordinance promotes smart watering by limiting the times of the day that you can use irrigation systems. To avoid evaporation during the hottest time of the day, and to provide water more efficiently to your plants, trees, and lawns, irrigate before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. June 1 through September 30.

The ordinance also requires rain and freeze sensors to be placed on all new irrigation systems installed after March 4, 2005. All commercial and apartment irrigation systems installed before March 4, 2005 must be equipped with rain and freeze sensors by March, 2007.

These sensors will help interrupt scheduled watering during wet or icy conditions. They can be installed on most sprinkler controllers. Because sensors can help you save the amount of water you use, the installation cost to you is usually recovered in one to three years.

Save Water: Use Only What You Need
As the hot summer months approach...Remember

1. Quickly repair leaks
2. Water the lawn – not driveways, sidewalks and streets
3. When using sprinklers, water before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. (June 1 through September 30)
4. Watering with a hose or soaker hose allows you to water low to the ground with the least amount of evaporation
5. New sprinkler systems are now required to have rain and freeze sensors.

More water conservation tips are available at www.ci.arlington.tx.us/water/conservation.

For more information:

Water Quality Information: 817-457-7550
Laboratory Services water sample requests, water quality questions or water quality problems. If you have questions concerning this brochure, ask for Erik Irwin in the laboratory.

Customer Services Information: 817-275-5931
Open new or transfer account, billing inquiries, water conservation, water and sewer rates.

Emergency Water and
Sewer Services (24 hours): 817-459-5900
Service interruptions, water leaks, sewer problems

Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD):817-237-8585

Texas Commission
on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):..512-239-1000

To participate in decisions concerning water: Attend the Arlington City Council meetings which are held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber located at City Hall, 101 West Abram Street. City Council Agendas are posted on our web site www.ci.arlington.tx.us.
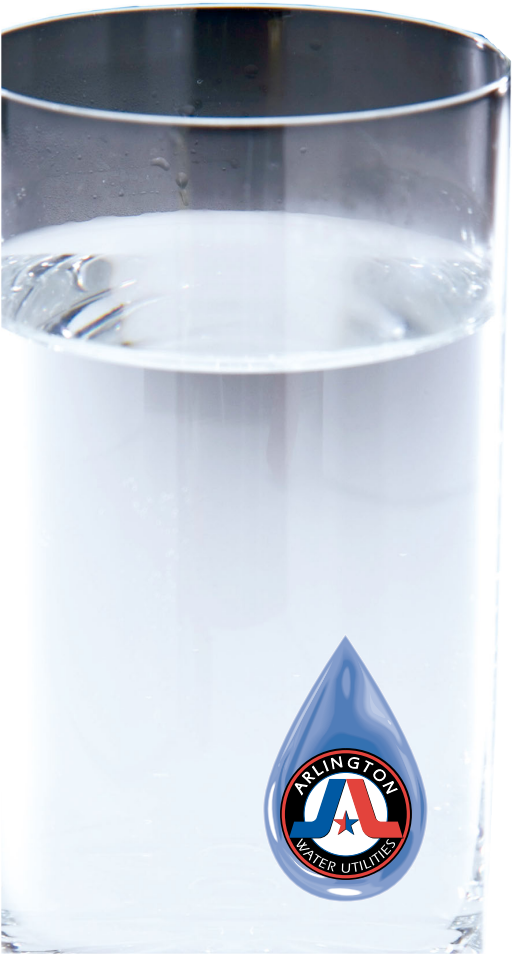
VISIT OUR WWWebsite!

www.ci.arlington.tx.us/water/ studiesandreports_drinkingwater quality.html

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A rlington Water Utilities is again proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all water quality standards. Our employees take great pride in producing and delivering to you, our customer, water that meets all Federal and State regulations. Again this year, no water quality regulations were violated and in most instances substances found in Arlington water are well below the maximum allowable levels. The information included in this report reflects the data collected from January 1 through December 31, 2005, unless noted otherwise.

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Para ayuda en español, favor de llamar al teléfono 817-457-7550 y pregunte por Erik Irwin. Este reporte también está disponible en esta dirección de internet www.ci.arlington.tx.us/ water/studiesandreports_drinkingwaterquality.html.

How is the water in Arlington treated?

The water in Arlington is treated at two state of the art water treatment plants. Ozone is used as the primary disinfectant. Aluminum sulfate and a cationic polymer are added to help dirt and other particles clump together and settle out during treatment. The water is then filtered through granular activated carbon beds to remove smaller particles and substances that are dissolved in the water. The water is then chloraminated (treated with chlorine and then ammonia) as it enters the clearwell for storage. Chloramine is the secondary disinfectant that keeps the water safe on its way to your faucet.
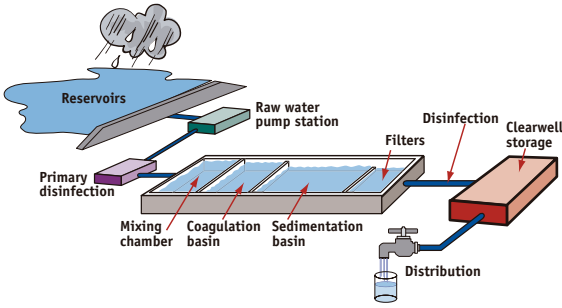
Where does Arlington drinking water come from?

Arlington purchases its water for treatment from the Tarrant Regional Water District. The water is taken from four reservoirs. Cedar Creek, Richland Chambers and Lake Benbrook supply the John Kubala Water Treatment Plant. Lake Arlington supplies the Pierce-Burch Water Treatment Plant.
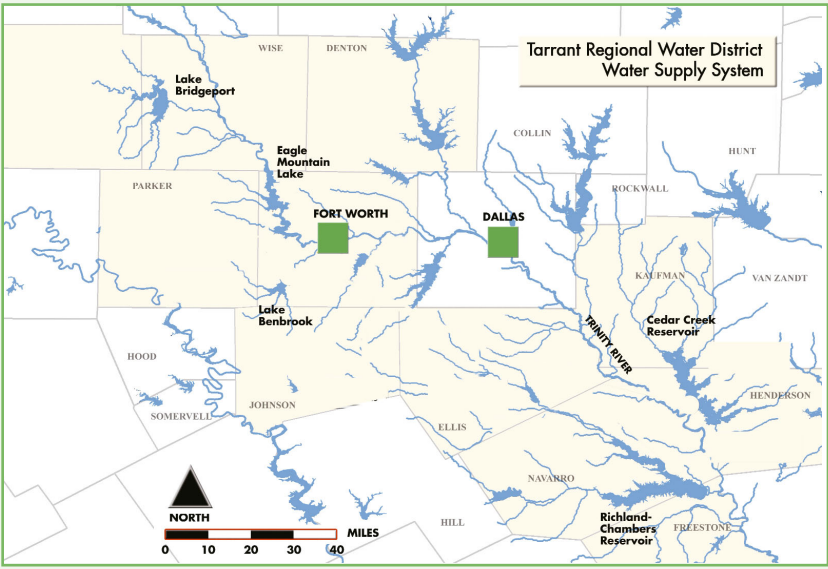
Cryptosporidium Monitoring Information: We participated in monitoring for Cryptosporidium in our source water. Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen that may be found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, it cannot guarantee 100 percent removal nor can the testing methods determine if the organisms are alive and capable of causing cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection with nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps that may occur after ingestion of contaminated water. The summary of the monitoring results follows: Cryptosporidium was detected in Lake Arlington in February 2005 but not in January or the rest of the year, and it was not detected at all in the other reservoirs the City of Arlington draws its water from. In addition to coagulation and filtration, the City of Arlington uses Ozone to further protect against Cryptosporidium.

Important Health Information

I am undergoing chemotherapy for cancer. Is the water still okay for me to drink?

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or Immuno-compromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Has a Source Water Susceptibility Awareness (SWSA) study been completed on each one of the reservoirs that Arlington receives water from?

Yes. A SWSA for each reservoir was completed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The SWSA lists the sources of possible contamination and the possible level of their severity, for each reservoir. After completing this study the TCEQ sent copies of their findings to the City of Arlington Water Utilities Department. The findings revealed that each of the reservoirs mentioned above did have some level of susceptibility to possible contamination. For additional information or questions regarding the most recent SWSA please contact the drinking water laboratory at 817-457-7550 or TCEQ at 512-239-1000.

Is Arlington water safe to drink?

Absolutely. Again this year, no water quality regulations were violated and in most instances substances found in Arlington water are well below the maximum allowable levels. Our employees take great pride in producing and delivering to you, our customer, water that meets all Federal and State regulations.

Substances that are regulated or are required to be monitored and were detected in Arlington tap water in 2005.
None of the detected substances exceeded the regulated limits.

Inorganic contaminants

Substance	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level	Range	Possible Source
Barium (2002)[1]	ppm	2	2	0.046	0.044-0.046	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.9	0.2-0.9	Water additive promoting strong teeth
Nitrate as Nitrogen	ppm	10	10	0.26	0.26-0.26	Runoff from fertilizers
Nitrite as Nitrogen (1999)	ppm	1	1	0.01	0.01	Runoff from fertilizers

[1]Sampling is required every 6 years.

Substance	Units	Action Level	No. of Sites Exceeding Action Level	90th Percentile	Range	Possible Source
Lead (2003)[2]	ppb	15	0	2.5	ND-6.9	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (2003)[2]	ppm	1.3	0	.25	0.016-0.407	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Instead of MCLs for lead and copper, EPA requires that 90 percent of water samples obtained from customer's taps contain less than the Action Level for each metal. Arlington's most recent survey of the required 50 homes not only met this requirement but showed that none of the homes exceeded the action levels. This means that Arlington's water is significantly higher quality than required.

[2]Sampling is required every 3 years.

Organic contaminants

Substance	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level	Range	Possible Source
Atrazine	ppb	3	3	0.27	0.2-0.28	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Average of all sampling points.						
Total Trihalomethanes*	ppb	80	NA	7.1	6.4-7.6	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	ppb	60	NA	6.6	5.9-6.6	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloramines*	ppm	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	3.6	3.5-3.6	Water additive used to control microbes
Compliance based on a calculated running annual average of all samples at all sites.						
Total Organic Carbon**	TT=% removal ≥ 1.0					Naturally present in the environment
PB Plant				1.2	1.0-1.2	
JK Plant				1.28	1.1-1.28	

**Compliance is based on a calculated running annual average from each plant. Total organic carbon (TOC) no health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts, which include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are reported elsewhere in this report.*

Radioactive contaminants

Substance (2005*)	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level	Range	Possible Source
Radium 228	pCi/L	5	NA	<1.0	<1.0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters	pCi/L	50	NA	<4.0	<4.0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	pCi/L	15	NA	<2.0	<2.0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

*Sampling is required every 3 years.

Clarity (combined filter effluent turbidity)

Substance	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level /Avg.	Range	Possible Source
Highest single turbidity measurement	NTU	TT=1.0	0	0.43/0.11	0.04-0.43	Soil runoff
Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	%	TT=95%		99.67%	NA	

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Microbiological contaminants

Substance	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level	Range	Possible Source
Total Coliform	%	5%*	N/A	1.58%	ND-1.58%	Naturally present in the environment

Coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because they are easily detected and found in the digestive tract of warm blooded animals. While not themselves disease producers, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms. Therefore their absence from water is a good indication that the water is bacteriologically safe for human consumption. *Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% or more of the monthly samples.

Table A Definitions

Action Level (AL) The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

<(xxxx) less than the amount listed.

≥(xxx) equal to or greater than the amount listed.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

NA Not applicable

ND (Not detected) No level of the parameter was detected.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) A unit used when measuring turbidity, a measure of the cloudiness of the water.

pCi/L (picocuries per Liter) A measure of radioactivity in the water.

ppb (parts per billion, ug/L) A unit of measurement roughly equal to 1 drop in 100,000 gallons.

ppm (parts per million, mg/L) A unit of measurement roughly equal to 1 drop in 100 gallons.

TT (Treatment technique) A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Other Substances of Interest

Substance	Units	MCLG	Average	Range
Total:				
Alkalinity	ppm	NA	97	91-140
Hardness	ppm	NA	117	88-160
Hardness	grains/gal.	NA	6.8	5.2-9.5
Calcium	ppm	NA	40	28-64
Sodium	ppm	NA	24	19-31
Chloride	ppm	250	23	23-24
Sulfate	ppm	250	34	31-35

Disinfection By-Products

Substance (in ppb)	Average of all Sampling Points	Range
Chloroform	0.4	ND-1.7
Bromodichloromethane	2.5	ND-2.7
Chlorodibromomethane	3.4	3.0-3.6
Bromoform	1.2	ND-1.4

Each of the above four substances are not currently regulated by themselves. However, EPA does regulate them as part of a group of substances called Trihalomethanes. See Table A, Organic Contaminants.

Dichloroacetic Acid	3.5	2.4-4.1
Trichloroacetic Acid	<1.0	ND-<1.0
Dibromoacetic Acid	2.2	2.1-2.3

Each of the above three substances are not currently regulated by themselves. However, EPA does regulate them as part of a group of substances called Haloacetic Acids. See Table A, Organic Contaminants.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. The City of Arlington participated in gathering data under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule data collection (UCMR) in order to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of possible drinking water contaminants. If any unregulated contaminants were detected, they are shown in the tables elsewhere in this report. This data may also be found on EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ncod.html, or you can call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The United States Food and Drug Administration regulates the bottled water industry for the same contaminants. The treatment process removes contaminants from the raw water and provides further protection prior to sending it to the distribution system.

What type of contaminants might be in my water?

The City of Arlington and the State of Texas both analyze your drinking water for contaminants. Any that were detected during the last year are shown in Table A. As shown in the table all are well below the established maximum contaminant levels. All water dissolves substances from the ground as it flows over and through it.

Substances that may be present in raw water include such things as:

1) microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria that come from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife;

2) salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or the result of urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges or farming;

3) pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff or residential uses;

4) organic chemical contaminants that include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and can also come from gas stations and urban storm water runoff;

5) radioactive contaminants that are naturally occurring.

Substances may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on these problems please call Laboratory Services at 817-457-7550.